

APPENDIX

TO

Journals of Senate and Assembly

OF THE

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA.

1903



CARSON CITY, NEVADA

STATE PRINTING OFFICE, . . . ANDREW MAOTE, SUPERINTENDENT
1903

STATE OF NEVADA

INAUGURAL MESSAGE

OF

GOVERNOR JOHN SPARKS

TO THE LEGISLATURE OF 1903

(Twenty-first Session)



CARSON CITY, NEVADA

STATE PRINTING OFFICE, : : : : ANDREW MAUTE, SUPERINTENDENT

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INAUGURAL MESSAGE.

To the Honorable, the Senate and Assembly :

GENTLEMEN: By mutual agreement between my honored predecessor and myself I have been favored with the promise that he will report to your honorable bodies such information as is considered properly within the constitutional powers of the Government of this State.

By reason of his superior knowledge and experience regarding conditions affecting the public welfare of our people, and future requirements in legislation, it affords me pleasure to submit to your honorable body for careful consideration his recommendations, and further to express my belief that in his retirement from the position of Governor of Nevada the State has lost one of the most efficient, faithful and honest officers its history has recorded.

In my own behalf I desire to express my appreciation and gratitude to the people of the State for the high honor they have conferred upon me. In assuming the responsible duties, I realize that I face a new experience in life. My sphere has heretofore been one of active business, diversified to some extent, and successful to a moderate degree, which I hope will be of some value in the performance of my duties as Governor. It is not without misgivings that I look to the future, but, if a firm determination to fulfill the obligation which I have assumed avail, I feel reassured with confidence.

Not intending to interfere with any department of the State Government other than the Constitution grants to the Executive, I positively affirm that I will not hesitate or falter in maintaining every power belonging thereto,

to prevent unjust or harmful legislation, without offense, I hope, but firmly as I may.

I desire to see the State prosper and grow in wealth and population upon the substantial merit of its resources, and to the accomplishment of this purpose my best energies will be devoted.

I am heartily in accord with and desire to emphasize Governor Sadler's recommendation with reference to the pollution of waters of the rivers, lakes and streams, and I recommend that the Legislature make an appropriation sufficient to cover the expense of determining the matter in the United States Courts, and authorize its expenditure for that purpose. This evil should not be tolerated any longer, and the sooner it is settled the better. I presume that the State of California has health laws, and the matter should be brought to the attention of the authorities of that State in so far as the Truckee River is concerned, in a friendly way, and in case protection is not granted we will be prepared to enforce our rights in the Courts.

QUARANTINE LAWS IN RELATION TO LIVE STOCK.

I desire to call your attention to a matter that I know to be of much importance to this State. Our law has vested in the State Board of Health all power and authority for the prevention and control of infectious diseases applicable to human beings and live stock. This Board is appointed by the Governor, and, of course, the interest of humanity and the health of the people demand first attention. Physicians of repute have always been appointed and have had control, but physicians who are skilled in the treatment of diseases prevalent among men are not likely to be the best veterinarians, and do not have the time to devote to such practice, and, further, under our law, have no power over diseased animals until they get within our borders.

The Governors of other States have the power conferred upon them to quarantine against all States or

infected districts, and it is my opinion that it would be to great advantage to the stock interests, if such power was conferred upon the Governor of this State, and still retain the State Board of Health for the management and control of human diseases.

I ask further that an appropriation be made for such purpose, subject to the disposal of the Governor or some Board, to properly enforce any quarantine that may be made, and if necessary be empowered to employ a competent veterinary surgeon to examine local epidemics that might break out in different sections of this State. This would not necessitate the constant employment of a veterinary surgeon, but only at such times as actually needed.

This I deem important and necessary for the protection of the stock industry, in view of the fact that a terrible foot and mouth disease has broken out in the New England States with fearful results, and to prevent its spreading is at this time the anxiety of all the great cattle and sheep-raising States east of the Rocky Mountains. It becomes our duty to be prepared to avert a calamity so injurious in its effects upon animal life.

The germs of this disease are disseminated in so many and unsuspected ways that it may reach the remotest parts of the country by methods, which, if understood, would seem marvelous. Infected hides and the hair shipped to market for plastering may contain the germs in condition to transmit the disease. I believe that it is prudent to be prepared to stamp out the disease at its first appearance, if possible.

To this State, as locally applied, quarantine means more than is generally understood. For some years past it has been the practice of some bordering States to declare a quarantine against Nevada, which, by such power, prevents our stock from crossing into the State where the inhibition exists. On the other hand, scabby diseased sheep from such State can come over the line

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into Nevada like an army of Egyptian locusts, and desolate, scourge and infect the best grazing grounds within our borders. This is unfair to our stockmen and a great injury to the State.

I recommend your early consideration of this matter and provision for relief.

STATE IMPROVEMENTS.

I believe the time has arrived for this State to consider and prepare to assume a higher and more important attitude in commercial and industrial affairs. It is evident that the attention of business men throughout the world is being attracted to our mineral and other resources for investments. Our people must be prepared to encourage them in the venture, by every honest means. We have a vast extent of country that has not received attention enough to be considered even partially explored, and we must have assistance from others for development. We have counties of vast area without railroad connections, isolated and remote from intercourse with business centers, and we need railroads to open up, facilitate and utilize their now dormant advantages; but capitalists will not come here and invest their money in railroads if they are antagonized by the people by obstructive methods or laws considered onerous, either in the matter of taxation or otherwise. The same condition applies to every other branch of business. The inducement must be sufficiently inviting to justify their approval or the proposition is declined. This state of facts inclines me to recommend a liberal course to all who may seek investment in this State, as it seems to me that the most rational methods would be to offer the best inducements possible to secure an increase of property investments in the State, in order to have something to tax hereafter.

LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION AT ST. LOUIS IN 1904.

The Exposition promises to be one of the largest in

attendance that has ever been held in the United States, and offers the very best opportunities to exhibitors for displaying the products of the several States and other countries to millions of people who will be there to examine and be instructed in relation thereto that could possibly occur.

I believe that such displays are highly beneficial in the way of attracting and interesting strangers to make investments. If individuals find it profitable to avail themselves of such methods it must certainly be of value to them, and if so it should be of much greater value to States.

Believing that the condition of the State is such as to justify the expenditure of the necessary amount, and also that the time will be opportune for placing our products to the very best advantage, I recommend that you make an appropriation of \$10,000 or \$15,000, and that a provision be made in the law that no greater amount be expended than shall be appropriated.

LABOR.

In accordance with the instruction given in the platform of the Fusion Party under which I was nominated and elected, I feel in duty bound to call your attention to this subject, and to the obligation that I and all other State officers, who were elected by the party, are under, to the faithful redemption of this pledge, given to favor the enactment of a law constituting eight hours a day's work.

It has not been either the practice or the inclination of members of this party to make, evade or break promises to the people, nor to construct platforms merely to catch votes, and I do not imagine that this honorable body will do so.

This is an era of combinations, and the laboring people are entitled to such benefit as taxpayers and good citizens in equal proportion and standing before the law as are combinations of capital.

I, therefore, earnestly recommend that such law be enacted, and that it be in such positive terms that its enforcement will be effectual.

STATE BOARD OF ASSESSORS.

In addition to the explanation given by Governor Sadler relating to the operation of this Act, I desire to add a recommendation that the law be amended in a manner making it more effective. In my opinion it should contain a provision fixing a penalty for non-attendance of either the Assessor or a member of the Board of County Commissioners of every county, also amend by giving the Chairman or a member of the Board of Revenue a right to vote in case a tie occurs, and strike out Section 6 which makes a State levy, and having a separate Act for that purpose as formerly, and such other amendments as you may deem advisable.

While this law has not consummated all that was expected from it, yet I think the consensus of opinion is that it has done good and is a move in the right direction. It is certainly a good plan for the Assessors to meet and consult together regarding assessment and taxation throughout the State, and, by agreeing on a uniform valuation of property that can be classified, they will be better prepared to give equal taxation.

REVISION OF CORPORATION LAW.

Attorneys of high standing have represented to me that it is very essential that our corporation law be either amended or superseded by a new Act embodying more liberal terms to incorporators. This fact is made apparent by the many instances wherein Nevada owners are compelled to go to other States in order to satisfy proposed investors. Such a law would remedy this inconvenience and will be acceptable to all concerned, and would, in my judgment, be productive of additional revenue to the State.

IRRIGATION.

I call the attention particularly of the Legislature to the importance of the Irrigation Act recently passed by Congress under which it is desirable that work should be commenced immediately by the National Government for the storage and conservation of water which now goes to waste. It is important that our State Government should cooperate in every way with the National Government in the important work, and if legislation is necessary to secure such cooperation, it should be enacted. The fund available now reaches nearly \$10,000,000 and, as other States are showing much activity in endeavoring to secure the application of these moneys to works within their boundaries, it is important that Nevada should move immediately, as we have a very large area to cover. I shall be glad to cooperate with the Legislature to this desirable end.

CONCLUSION.

I am not prepared at this time to make further recommendations, but, during the course of the session I may have other communications to make to your honorable body.

I hope that your deliberations may be productive of good results to the people of the State, to the end that their interests may be conserved and beneficial legislation enacted.

The reports of the heads of the several departments and institutions of the State Government are respectfully recommended to your special consideration.

JNO. SPARKS,
Governor of Nevada.